



The University of Southern Queensland

Course specification

The current and official versions of the course specifications are available on the web at <http://www.usq.edu.au/coursespecification/current>.
Please consult the web for updates that may occur during the year.

Description: Autism Spectrum Disorder

Subject	Cat-nbr	Class	Term	Mode	Units	Campus
SPE	1002	75374	1, 2008	ONC	1.00	Toowoomba

Academic group:	FOEDU
Academic org:	FOE002
Student contribution band:	National Priority Teaching
ASCED code:	070113

STAFFING

Moderator: Janice Stenton

OTHER REQUISITES

State law in Queensland (Australia) requires that all adults working/undertaking professional experience/researching with children under the age of 18, in the state of Queensland are required to possess a current suitability card (Blue Card). (See "Other Requirements" for further information.) Also see: <http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html>.

RATIONALE

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) view the world from a different perspective to all other children. The combined difficulties in areas of communication, socialization and behaviour can make the world a threatening and confusing place for a child with autism. It is important that teachers understand the complexities of ASD in general and the specific strengths, interests and abilities of each child with ASD so that modifications to learning and school life are appropriate and effective.

SYNOPSIS

SPE1002 introduces the beginning teacher to the world of a child with Autism Spectrum Disorder. Students will interrogate the triad of difficulties experienced by children with ASD, in particular communication, socialization and behaviour difficulties. They will research aspects of ASD and Asperger syndrome to understand the complex nature of the disorders. Teaching and learning strategies to maximise learning outcomes for students with ASD will be integral to each part of the course. Understanding the component difficulties experienced by students with ASD will also inform the processes and skills required to manage behaviours in the classroom setting.

OBJECTIVES

The course objectives define the student learning outcomes for a course. The assessment item(s) that may be used to assess student achievement of an objective are shown in parenthesis. On successful completion of this course students will be able to:

1. Identify and describe the components of the triad of difficulties experienced by students with ASD. (Assignment 1 and Quizzes)
2. Articulate the diverse nature of students with ASD including those students with Asperger syndrome. (Assignment 1 and Quizzes)
3. Identify a range of teaching strategies that address learning difficulties in the areas of communication and socialization. (Assignment 1 and Quizzes)
4. Demonstrate competence in information literacy skills, including critical and reflective thinking (Assignment 1 and Quizzes)
5. Demonstrate competence in and appropriate use of language and literacy, including spelling, grammar, punctuation and bibliographic referencing (Assignment 1 and Quizzes)

TOPICS

	Description	Weighting (%)
1.	Understanding ASD	25.00
2.	Speech, Language and Communication difficulties	10.00
3.	Bizarre Behaviours - purposes and management	10.00
4.	Interpreting the social world and its meanings	10.00
5.	Sensory awareness and sensitivity	10.00
6.	Curriculum and learning	35.00

TEXT and MATERIALS required to be PURCHASED or ACCESSED

ALL textbooks and materials are available for purchase from USQ BOOKSHOP (unless otherwise stated). Orders may be placed via secure internet, free fax 1800642453, phone 07 46312742 (within Australia), or mail. Overseas students should fax +61 7 46311743, or phone +61 7 46312742. For costs, further details, and internet ordering, use the 'Textbook Search' facility at <http://bookshop.usq.edu.au> click 'Semester', then enter your 'Course Code' (no spaces).

Dodd, S 2005, *Understanding autism*, Elsevier, Marrickville, NSW.

REFERENCE MATERIALS

Reference materials are materials that, if accessed by students, may improve their knowledge and understanding of the material in the course and enrich their learning experience.

Whether you are on, or off campus, the USQ Library is an excellent source of information <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/> . The gateway to education resources is here... <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/faculties/education/default.htm>

STUDENT WORKLOAD REQUIREMENTS

ACTIVITY	HOURS
Assessments	40.00
Directed Study	60.00
Lectures	10.00
Private Study	35.00
Tutorials	20.00

ASSESSMENT DETAILS

Description	Marks out of	Wtg (%)	Due date
ASSIGNMENT 1	40.00	40.00	04 Mar 2008
QUIZZES- ON-LINE	60.00	60.00	04 Mar 2008

IMPORTANT ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

- Attendance requirements:**
It is the students' responsibility to attend and participate appropriately in all activities (such as lectures, tutorials, laboratories and practical work) scheduled for them, and to study all material provided to them or required to be accessed by them to maximise their chance of meeting the objectives of the course and to be informed of course-related activities and administration.
- Requirements for students to complete each assessment item satisfactorily:**
To complete each of the assignments satisfactorily, students must obtain at least 50% of the marks available for each assessment item.
- Penalties for late submission of required work:**
If students submit assignments after the due date without (prior) approval of the examiner then a penalty of 5% of the total marks gained by the student for the assignment may apply for each working day late up to ten working days at which time a mark of zero can be recorded. No assignments will be accepted after model answers have been posted.
- Requirements for student to be awarded a passing grade in the course:**
To be assured of receiving a passing grade a student must achieve at least 50% of the total weighted marks available for the course.
- Method used to combine assessment results to attain final grade:**
The final grades for students will be assigned on the basis of the weighted aggregate of the marks obtained for each of the summative assessment items in the course.
- Examination information:**
There is no examination in this course.
- Examination period when Deferred/Supplementary examinations will be held:**
There will be no Deferred or Supplementary examinations in this course.
- University Regulations:**
Students should read USQ Regulations 5.1 Definitions, 5.6. Assessment, and 5.10 Academic Misconduct for further information and to avoid actions which might contravene University Regulations. These regulations can be found at the URL

<http://www.usq.edu.au/corporateservices/calendar/part5.htm> or in the current USQ Handbook.

ASSESSMENT NOTES

- 1 The due date for an assignment is the date by which a student must despatch the assignment to the USQ. The onus is on the student to provide proof of the despatch date, if requested by the examiner.
- 2 Students must retain a copy of each item submitted for assessment. This must be produced within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt of request being made by the examiner. The student must retain this copy until the grade for this course has been finalised.
- 3 In accordance with the University's assignment extension policy (Regulation 5.6.1), the examiner may grant an extension of the due date of an assignment in extenuating circumstances.
- 4 The Faculty will normally only accept assessments that have been written, typed or printed on paper-based media. The Faculty will NOT accept submission of assignments by facsimile. Students who do not have regular access to postal services or who are otherwise disadvantaged by these regulations may be given special consideration. They should contact the examiner of the course to negotiate such special arrangements.
- 5 Students who have undertaken all of the required assessments in a course but who have failed to meet some of the specified objectives of a course within the normally prescribed time may be awarded the temporary grade: IM (Incomplete - Make up). An IM grade will only be awarded when, in the opinion of the examiner, a student will be able to achieve the remaining objectives of the course after a period of non-directed personal study.
- 6 Students who, for medical, family/personal, or employment-related reasons, are unable to complete an assignment or to sit for an examination at the scheduled time may apply to defer an assessment in a course. Such a request must be accompanied by appropriate supporting documentation. One of the following temporary grades may be awarded IDS (Incomplete - Deferred Examination); IDM (Incomplete - Deferred Make-up); IDB (Incomplete - Both Deferred Examination and Deferred Make-up).
- 7 When there is more than one marker for a single item of assessment, the distributed patterns and means for the different markers will be compared and marks adjusted if necessary.
- 8 Marking criteria are provided in course material as mark sheets/guides or as part of assignment specifications.
- 9 Summative assessment items will receive a numerical score. Any ungraded assessment requirement will receive a Pass, Fail or Incomplete.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- 1 Students will require access to e-mail and Internet access to USQConnect for this course.
- 2 Students are to use a recognised referencing system as specified by the examiner.
- 3 **IMPORTANT NOTE: Working with Children: State law in Queensland requires that all adults (including university students, pre-service educators, trainers, vocational teachers, industry educators) working with children under the age of 18, in the State of Queensland*, obtain approval before commencing such work. Many education courses include a practical component (professional experience, project work, research, assessment etc.) that may require engagement with children under the age of 18. It is your responsibility to ensure that you possess a current suitability card (Blue Card) before commencing any practical components of this course. DO NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH CHILDREN UNDER 18 UNLESS YOU POSSESS A CURRENT**

'BLUE CARD'. For further information:

<http://www.childcomm.qld.gov.au/employment/bluecard/informationSheets.html> *If you are undertaking practical experience outside the State of Queensland, Australia you should check local requirements.
